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SIPDIS

NSC STAFF FOR SINGH

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [IR](#) [EG](#) [IAEA](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: EGYPT AND IRAN/IAEA: PRESSING FOR REFERENCE TO  
NUCLEAR-FREE MIDDLE EAST

Classified by Ambassador Francis Ricciardone for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d).

(C) During Security Coordinator LTG Dayton's February 1 meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit (septel), the Ambassador handed Aboul Gheit a copy of the draft IAEA resolution on Iran. Aboul Gheit pressed for the resolution to include reference to a nuclear-free Middle East. Echoing previous comments, Aboul Gheit said "we need something to show our people," failure to mention the nuclear free zone "puts Egypt in a tough spot." At the same time, Aboul Gheit acknowledged that such a reference was unlikely - "now that you have Russian and Chinese support, you don't need Egypt."  
RICCIARDONE